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Current, March 21, 1994

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The CURRENT

Issue 789

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

March 21, 1994

Vandy Report Isn't So Dandy With Students, Administration

Student Life Director Says Codes Governing Speech On Campus Is Not Answer To War Of Words

by Clint Zwiffl
editorial director

An age of political correctness has taken a bite out of what college students can say on campus, without punishment from the university.

A study conducted by the Freedom Forum Center at Vanderbilt University reports that 79 percent of public colleges and universities have some type of code governing speech on campus. The issue has caused dissension at universities. Some support the codes saying they are necessary to keep a non-prejudiced academic life on campus. Others say the codes are a direct violation of first amendment rights and actually hurt students more than help them.

Milton Kleg, director of the Center for the Study of Ethnic and Racial Discrimination said in the study that the silence of speech through codes makes bias such as racism even more difficult to deal with.

"Suppression of hate rhetoric merely embeds the hatred and prevents educators and the public from being able to deal with it in the open," Kleg said. "It is much easier to deal with a Klansman who dons his robe than the more insidious 'gentleman' or 'gentlewoman' who as a banker, real estate broker or university administrator, keep their robes in the closet."

Beno Schmidt, former president of Yale University,

Senate Student Affairs Committee Delays Approval For Comptroller Funding

by Russell Korando
editor-in-chief

The Senate Committee on Student Affairs voted to delay on making a decision as to fund the student comptroller position Thursday.

Committee members voiced concerns about the comptroller position being redundant because paid student accountants were already performing the same duties.

Bill Ross, who has performed duties as student comptroller for 1993-94

with no pay, is asking the committee to approve \$1,500 for the person elected to serve the position in 1994-95.

"I think an extra person is needed to help student groups with budget problems, or that need help working on their budgets," Ross said. "An example would be ABC (Associated Black Collegians), last year their budget had several errors, but they came to me before the deadline, and together we worked out one of the best budgets I've reviewed."

J. Martin Rochester, Committee

chairperson, said he felt the comptroller position would be useful because of the large proliferation of students organizations.

Ross said the comptroller position, which is part of the Student Government Association, would maintain comprehensive files of all student groups, but, as the committee pointed out, this service was already being performed.

The office of student comptroller was unanimously passed by SGA last

See Delay, page 5

Reform In Russia Passed Around At UM-St. Louis

by Jeremy Rutherford
news editor

"The Future of Political Reform in Russia," was the center of controversy March 16 when Nikolai Zlobin, associate professor and leading research fellow in the history department at Moscow State University, visited UM-St. Louis.

The Fall of Russia in 1991 marked the end of communism as Russians knew it. But is it really over? Is democracy really in control of Russia, the former Soviet Union? Zlobin, a visiting professor at Webster University, has an image of a person who will know how to resolve the problems in Russia.

"The people are tired of the inconsistency of Boris Yeltsin," said Zlobin through interpreter Sergei Tsyganov, an employee of Webster. "The people of Russia are waiting for a person that is confident enough and has simplistic answers."

Zlobin said it looked as though democrats had the solution of reform after the fall of communism. "But a lack of unity didn't give them support as a whole," Zlobin said. "In the last election, they had three platforms instead of just one. As a result, none of the democrats gained a majority."

Russians are confused with the surge of the democratic party

because Yeltsin is using the same tactics that former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev did, he said. "He is just using people and then turning them into enemies," Zlobin said. "People don't know Yeltsin's goal or how he is going to get there. They are reading about new appointments in (office), but nobody knows who they are, or what they do. Nobody knows what is going on."

Zlobin is a columnist in Russia and said he found interesting facts with a poll he designed.

"I questioned the people of Russia, 'how many are in favor of Yeltsin's constitution', and 81 percent said 'yes'." Zlobin said. "And then I asked, 'how many have read it' and the answer was six percent."

Zlobin said many leaders are trying to take control including: Yeltsin, Vladimir Zhirinovski, who said he could reform Russia in 48 hours, and the governments of local provinces. But in the end, Zlobin believes the locals will win. "I believe that locals will ultimately have political power because they are supported by the voters," Zlobin said. "People confide with the locals rather than the central government. People (in Moscow) are not interested in the central government, but they are interested in what's going on around them."

See Russia, page 5



Heads Up

Fans enjoying a UM-St. Louis baseball game at Rivermen Field last season. The Rivermen began this season winning seven of their first eight games.

EDITORIAL

Should the SGA student comptroller be a paid position? This week's editorial sheds some light on the issue before Senate Student Affairs.

FEATURES

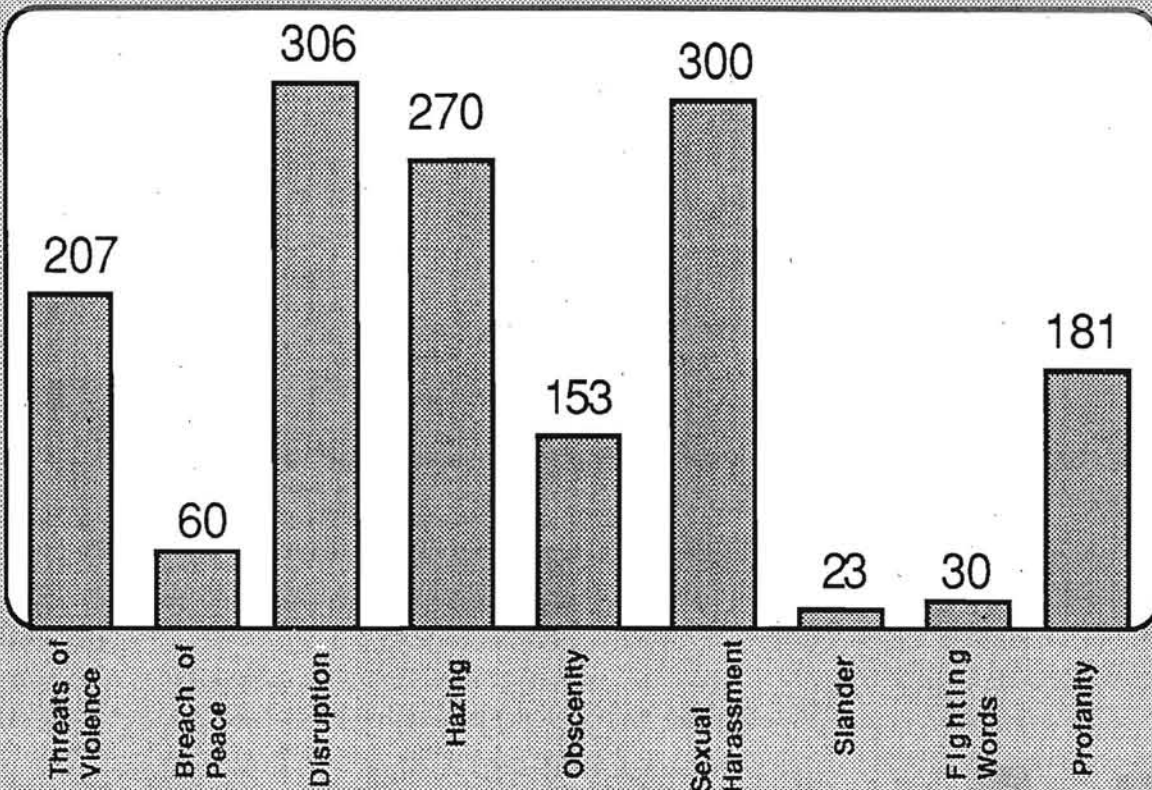
Student responds to Chatter Box topic on why UM-St. Louis students are not given Presidents Day off from classes.

SPORTS

Rivermen tan opponents during trip to Florida, but get burned by Mizzou in Columbia.

Freedom of Speech?

The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University recently surveyed 384 schools. The numbers below are the schools that have the corresponding policy.



Three's Company



Photo: Cinde Poli

KEEPIN' BALANCE: Steve Johnson, secondary education major, has more time on his hands with summer drawing closer.

Dietician Expert Says 'Just Put It Back'

by Clint Zwiffl
editorial director

Just eat it.

Those words are the diets of many college students.

Whadia Karmally, registered dietician and director of the Irving Center for Clinical Research, said eating in that fashion is dangerous and could be deadly. She said the combination of caffeine and fat is much more convenient of a diet than are fruits, vegetables, soup, turkey and other low fat food. This convenience, she said, causes students to make unhealthy food choices.

"It's convenient to eat cookies or doughnuts or fast food," Karmally said. "Kids go for the convenient thing. They don't have the knowledge of saying 'lets balance it out' and have skim milk instead of a Coke."

Karmally said it is common for students to eat large amounts of high fat food and drink large amounts of caffeine during exam time. Some students are under the impression that those foods give them the energy to pull an "all-nighter." Karmally said, though, such foods have an effect that is detrimental to students, especially at exam time.

"(High fat food) is not good for the immune system," she said. "They cause you not to feel well and it hurts your physical endurance. Exams come often enough that students should realize that

(high fat food and caffeine) aren't enough."

Karmally said in order for students to be at their best, they need to have a diet that relies on complex carbohydrates that are low in fat and high in protein. She said foods such as turkey, chicken, whole wheat bread, and soup are the healthiest dietary choices for students.

"We look at what different kinds of fat do and diets high in fat are really detrimental to the heart," Karmally said. "You need to control fat all of the time."

Karmally said there are problems associated with poor eating habits and youth. She said many students believe that because of their youth, poor eating habits are not harmful. Karmally said, though poor eating habits are just as detrimental to the young as the old, especially since unhealthy food choices become habitual.

"Nobody feels it's going to effect them," she said. "We have studies that show you can have [atherosclerosis (fat build up in the arteries)] at age 10. Heart disease is not something that happens in two years. It takes years (for heart disease to set in)."

Karmally said people do not usually make a change in their diet until their quality of life has been effected. Most college students, she said, have a

See Food, page 5



Photo: Dave Floyd

Nikolai Zlobin, associate professor and leading research fellow in the history department at Moscow State University, spoke on campus March 16.

CLASSIFIEDS

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ATTENTION STUDENTS: Earn extra cash stuffing envelopes at home. All materials provided. Send SASE to Midwest Mailers P.O. Box 395, Olathe, KS 66051. Immediate Response.

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PERSONALS

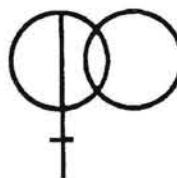
International student seeking roommate. Female nonsmoker. Rent 168.50 + utilities. Phone 428-7354.

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The Current is looking for feature reporters. Call Jeff at 553-5175.

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Events- Dr. Robert Calsyn Ph. D
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"Helping Homeless Mentally Ill People"
3:30 p.m. • 104 Benton Hall

Dr. George Taylor Ph. D
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Of Schizophrenia"
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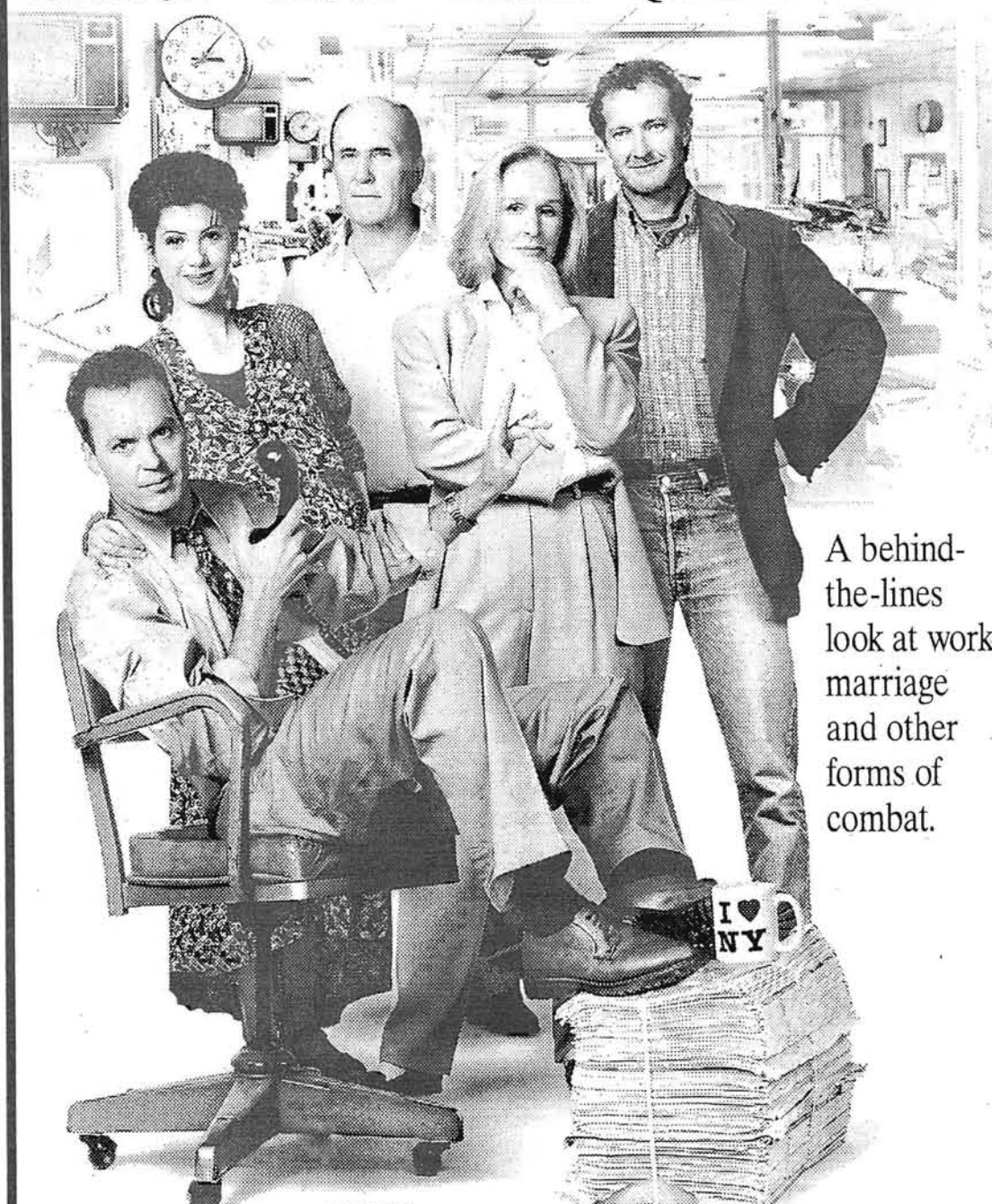
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A NEW COMEDY FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "BACKDRAFT" AND "PARENTHOOD."

MICHAEL KEATON GLENN CLOSE MARISA TOMEI RANDY QUAID ROBERT DUVALL



A behind-the-lines look at work, marriage and other forms of combat.

THE PAPER

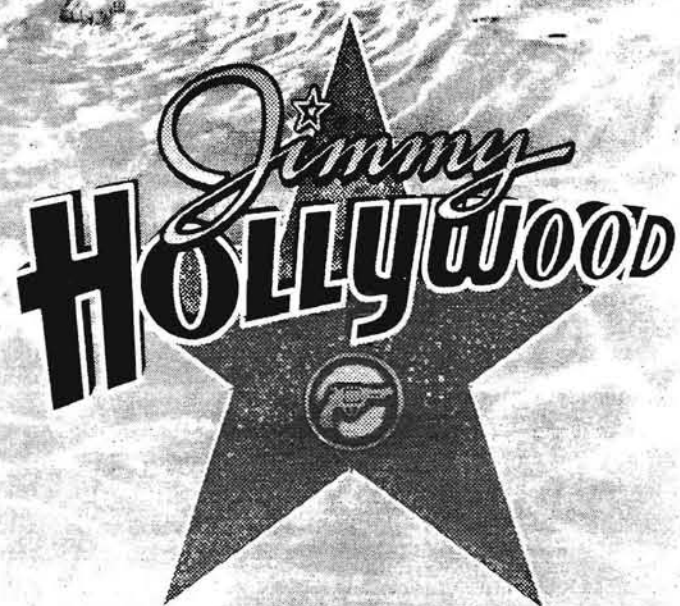
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STARTS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Current Issues

Should SSAC Deny Ross Requested \$1,500?

In April, the Senate Student Affairs Committee will vote on whether Bill Ross, student comptroller, receives a \$1,500 salary for the 1993-94 school year.

The position of student comptroller was created last year to supposedly ensure increased accountability and proper spending of student organization funds. Specifically, the comptroller should "present question of misuse of student allocated monies to the Senate Student Affairs Committee," according to the SGA Constitution.

However, according to SSAC records, not a single inquisition has been brought forth by Ross concerning questionable expenses this year.

Another function of the office outlined in the SGA Constitution calls for the student comptroller to "check the accuracy of Activity Fee Acquisition Forms" before student groups submit their budgets for funding. If this service is available to all student groups it should have been publicized—many student groups missed out on this opportunity.

In other words, Ross has made no attempt to audit student groups spending, but he is working hard in fighting for a \$1,500 paycheck for himself.

Both of the job duties described are also the responsibility of the Director of Student Affairs, Bob Schmalfeld. It seems the position and duties of a comptroller is redundant. Schmalfeld also has an assistant and a student accountant to catch any misuse of funds or mistakes in budgets that he doesn't.

Just what exactly is it that Ross does?

As comptroller he is automatically student chair of the Student Activity Budget Committee, where he is deciding the amount of funding each student group will receive. There are also eight other members doing the same thing—but they're not asking for \$1,500.

SGA should consider eliminating the comptroller position from their constitution, because the validity of their constitution now is lacking. Or possibly by-laws should be added to help secure the duties of the position. The process of impeachment should also be outlined—just in case the comptroller does a poor job.

"Bringing accountability back into the system," was Ross' slogan when seeking election as comptroller last April. But just who is it that needs to be held accountable?

Ross is supposed to hold groups accountable for their spending—but who is holding him accountable for his position. No one.

Next month the Senate Student Affairs Committee has the chance to hold him accountable by denying him the requested \$1,500 salary. This little resume builder for Ross shouldn't cost students' \$1,500.

CICCONE DEATH

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NEVER HEARD OF 'EM? THEN SUPPORT THE UPB'S REQUEST FOR \$200,000. THEN THEY'LL BRING YOUR FAVORITE BAND TO UMSL.



THE UNDERGROUND FRI. APRIL 1ST UMSL I.D.

Vox Populi...Voice of the People

Dear editor,

In regards to your comments about Greek organizations in the March 14 issue, we write with concern about the negative images of the Greeks at UM-St. Louis portrayed by *The Current*.

It is rather ironic, that in your analysis of good journalism, you stooped to the level of 19th Century muckraking and yellow journalism tactics. You state that it upsets you that people only write letters to *The Current* if they have a "gripe," yet *The Current* rarely prints positive stories about life at UM-St. Louis. At least when Amy Weicht was reporting for *The Current* in her "Campus Club Corner" column she would examine an organization by interviewing members of that organization, but you seem either too good for interviewing individuals or you are just a poor journalist.

We conclude with a few questions for you to ponder, and possibly look into, thereby holding your incredible journalistic skill and proficiency. If fraternities are so bad, why does being in one look so good on a resume? If fraternities are so bad, why are they the most active and positively influential on college campuses?

Mark Harris, Frank Meyer
Sigma Pi

Voice Of The People Policy

The Current welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief. The use of any material is at the editor's discretion.

Editing may be necessary for space and clarity. Ideas will not be altered, but editing will avoid obscenity, libel and invasions of privacy.

Letters in print do not necessarily reflect the opinion of *The Current*.

For purposes of verification, all letters must bear the writer's handwritten signature, address, student identification number and home or work telephone number. If requested, all efforts will be made to maintain the writer's anonymity.

UM-St. Louis will sponsor a conference on the implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 8. The conference "NAFTA Now: The Changing Political Economy of North America" will examine the economic, political and cultural ramifications of the agreement.

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UPBulletins

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MARCH

Foreign Film Festival

March 21- Too Beautiful For You

March 22- Cyrano de Bergerac

March 23- Three Men And A Cradle (place and time TBA)

March 24- The Little Thief

March 25- La Femme Nikita

All films will be shown at 1 p.m. in 72 or 78 J.C. Penney (unless otherwise listed).

Call 553-5531 for details.

Wednesday Noon Live begins March 30.



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The CURRENT



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Campus Catches Political Fever



Photo: Dave Floyd

Eric Barnhart, Treasurer of SGA, President of Political Science Academy, member of the College Republicans and more!

by Michael O'Brian
associate features editor

Either it's something in the air or something in the "Whitewater" stirring political unrest on campus.

Student Government Association (SGA), Political Science Academy (PSA) and other campus organizations are hosting a variety of politically natured events. With SGA elections just around the corner, students seem eager to share the political fever bug.

"It's the calm before the storm," said SGA Treasurer Eric Barnhart. Barnhart believes this year may yield a high student voter turnout for the elections.

"A lot of people want to be part of the campus political movement thanks to the rebuilding of the SGA two years ago," Barnhart said.

Barnhart gives credit for the positive work done on the structuring of SGA to Andy Masters (SGA president), Mike Tomlinson (former SGA president), Dave Roither (SGA vice president), and Bill Ross (SGA comptroller). He said there are others who have helped maintain the strength in SGA this year.

Barnhart said this SGA administration fought a transcript fee, fought an I.D. fee and helped to triple attendance at Homecoming.

The Political Science Academy, of which Eric Barnhart is also presi-

dent, is sponsoring an evening with former candidate John Hancock at Professor Lance LeLoup's house Monday, March 21.

Hancock will do a satirical lecture as he plays ragtime piano discussing "Lessons I learned on the campaign trail: The good, the bad, and the ugly."

"John Hancock may be the next Missouri Governor," said Barnhart with a slight laugh. "He could always pull an (John) Ashcroft."

SGA is sponsoring several events. County Executive "Buzz" Westfall will be speaking on crime March 28. Hancock will speak on cultural relativism March 29. A panel discussion will be held by the PSA March 30, and the peanut gallery speaks when the College Republicans take on the College Democrats in debate March 31.

All of these events are part of SGA's State Of The Nation, a week composed of political discussion and debate.

"The SGA elections are important," said Barnhart. "We need the power to fight the administration."

Barnhart said the University sometimes forgets the student, and the SGA is there to help.

"Politics affects everybody," said Barnhart. "Health care affects everybody. Crime affects everybody. Students need to be involved in politics. Trends begin on college campuses and grow."



Photo: Dennis Keeley

DIG: from left to right. Jon Morris, Johnny Cornwell, Scott Hackwith, Phil Friedmann and Anthony Smedile

College Band "Dig" Tours With Blind Melon

Promoting An Album On The Road

by Jeffrey Struyk
features editor

Gestalt is a German word meaning "form." It refers to any structure or pattern in which the whole has properties different from those of its parts. In other words, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. The same can be said five musicians with influences ranging from 1970s classic guitar to 1990s Rave music. An unlikely combination, they blend quite well to form the young, aspiring band known as Dig.

The five members of Dig are Scott Hackwith (vocals, guitar), Jon Morris (guitar, backing vocals), Johnny Cornwell (guitar), Phil Friedmann (bass) and Anthony Smedile (drums).

"We've been a band for two years in January," said Smedile. "It started with me and the singer and then we just kind of found everybody through friends except Phil. We found him through an ad, but it turned out that he was a friend of a friend anyway."

Once the band formed, it was only a matter of time before their talent landed them a record deal. But not that much time.

"We just rehearsed a couple of months, had a bunch of songs and got a record deal two months after we formed. We barely even knew each other when we got signed," Smedile said.

Dig signed on with Radioactive, a relatively small record company. "We checked out a few other record companies and stuff, but we went with Radioactive. They're small and pay a lot of attention to us," Smedile said.

Once they signed the deal, the band hit the road. "We did an EP and toured a little on that. Then we just did the album and we've been touring," Smedile said.

Dig has performed with Prong,

Bad Brains, The Wonder Stuff and Juliana Hatfield. Their current tour with Blind Melon began March 10 in Milwaukee. They played at the American Theatre in St. Louis March 16. Dig also made an appearance in MTV's "Jon Stewart Show" on February 14.

Their self-titled debut album contains the songs "Anymore," "Green Room," "I'll Stay High," and the hit single "Believe." Lead singer Scott Hackwith directed the video for "Believe" and is now a regular on MTV's "Buzz Bin." Through all their commercial success, Dig wishes to maintain a college-based audience.

"Our album was on the college

See Dig, page 5

Former Student Responds to "Chatter Box" Topic

To whom it may concern,
Although I am not currently enrolled at UM-St. Louis, being a former student, I felt that I have every right to address any of the issues that are covered in *The Current*.

In reference to random students being asked whether or not they "feel the University should honor Presidents' Day as it does Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday," at first I was offended by some of the responses. I soon realized, though, the people were simply re-

sponding to a question that cannot possibly have an intelligent answer.

First of all, there is a day set aside for presidents simply to recognize and respect the fact that at one time or another, these men have been the leaders of this country. Even though many of the decisions the presidents made only exacerbated the rough conditions this country was already facing, a day has been labeled Presidents' Day to honor the fact that these men had the courage to lead a country.

On the other hand though, a day has been set aside for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to honor the fact that he had the courage to lead those who were part of the minority group that was being oppressed.

To compare the two days is preposterous in the sense that the presidents were leaders of this country and represented it as a whole, whereas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. represented the individual repressed person.

As for the individual responses are concerned, unfortunately I am not surprised that people are still concentrating more on how much one person accomplishes versus the other. If you are spending your time tallying up how much each person did, then you cannot possibly have time to focus on the important things...what was actually accomplished.

In response to Jen Baumann's comment about Presidents' Day representing the entire country whereas Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is representing only one group of people, perhaps, if she would take the time to really listen to what he said, she should discover that he never spoke up for the rights of only one group of people. If this is what she has gathered from hearing about him, then maybe there should be more than just a day set aside to commemorate him because it was exactly this kind of thinking that he sought to put an end to.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Street

EDITORIAL

Dear Ms. Street,
Thank you for your letter concerning the "Chatter Box" featured in issue #786 of *The Current*. Normally your contribution would be placed in the *Vox Populi* section of the newspaper. Since your letter concerns my section specifically, I wanted to respond personally.

I found it interesting that you believe comparing the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr. and the presidents of the United States to be "preposterous." Your statement about Dr. King representing a group of oppressed people versus the presidents representing the nation as a whole is true. However, couldn't you consider George Washington a leader of an oppressed group of people: the early American colonists fighting for independence? Didn't Abraham Lincoln put an end to slavery? Dr. King was not the only great leader of our past.

Your comment about there being no intelligent response to the question made me think. In your letter, you seem to feel that the accomplishments of Dr. King outweigh the accomplishments of the presidents who are honored merely

because they "had the courage to lead a country." There are many who will probably view that as an unintelligent answer.

You don't have to agree with me. I'm not telling you what to believe and neither are the people featured in the "Chatter Box." Its function is not to please or anger anyone. It's a place where people can voice their opinions on certain issues. Each individual response is going to be different based on the person's frame of reference. The quotations are the opinions of the individuals. There are no right or wrong answers. Some responses are more likely to agree with your feelings more than others. That's what makes the "Chatter Box" interesting. Would you want to read a weekly feature that simply repeated the same type of response. We live in a culturally diverse society. The "Chatter Box" is a way to hear from a random sampling of people at a University.

Now, on a little more personal note. My selection for the "Chatter Box" was not intended to play down the accomplishments of Dr. King, nor to say that the presidents deserve more recognition and praise. The specific contributions made by each of our past leaders is irrelevant. I chose the topic because I feel that our past presidents are also an important part of our history as a nation. I can't go to the bank on Presidents' Day or conduct any business in government offices, yet I still find myself sitting through Spanish class. I find it strange that the University chooses to honor one great leader, but not the past 42 presidents like the rest of the country does.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Struyk
features editor

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Chatter Box

by Cinde Poil
of *The Current* staff

Do you believe the Clintons are guilty of anything concerning "Whitewater?"



"He probably was [guilty]. They took the money and used it for their campaign."
Carey Boelhauf
Junior
Art History



"I'll wait for the judicial system to decide if they're guilty or not guilty."
Benjamin Ash
Sophomore
Political Science



"I don't think he's guilty, but I think it's a shame that the media is pestering him so much."
Tom Zirbas
Senior
Secondary Education/
Social Studies



"Let the past be the past. It all happened in the past."
Amy Rogers
Junior
Communications

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Dig, from page 4

radio charts but then it moved to commercial radio," Smedile said. "It crossed over, so now we want to get back on ground level again. We want to give them something a little more unrefined and raw."

Dig will continue their tour with Blind Melon, ending in San Diego on March 28. Their next album is scheduled to be released in April 1995.

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Russia from page 1

To an average, American college student, Russia looks to be better off than it was just five years ago. Zlobin said it depends on how you look at it.

"The old system has been ruined, communism is destroyed and in that, thereform was successful," Zlobin said. "But now we need an idea, an ultimate goal but many people are not prepared to work everyday. And in that way, the reform was not successful."

Delay from page 1

year.

In other committee business:
The committee also decided to delay approval of the funding for Student Activities. The Student Activity Budget Committee reviewed budgets from 67 groups, down from 75 last year. Fifty percent of these groups were given hearings.

SABC was given \$293,965 to disperse among all groups, but held back \$10,124 to disperse among any groups that appeal. Appeal deadline is April 11.

UM-St. Louis has been recruiting foreign students for several years. As part of a program review, Student Affairs stated a plan to establish an International Student Recruitment program.

Lowe S. MacLean, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, has recruited students from Asian-rim countries, and Patricia Holmes, UM-St. Louis associate professor of Communication, is

Report from page 1

currently traveling in Asia for recruitment.

Committee members said they weren't aware of the enrollment results of these trips, but Karl Beeler, assistant to the vice chancellor, said they had been a steady increase in Malaysian enrollment because of them. One committee member said faculty reaction to the recruiting trips had been "that of curiosity, and that the committee needed to gather a feel for what was paying off."

Bob Schmalfeld, director of the University Center, said plans to expand the University Center and the J.C. Penney Building were under consideration.

One of the phased plans would move offices in Woods Hall, such as Financial Aid and Registration into the expanded buildings, and also place room for all student groups as well.

speech codes maintain the academic environment that is necessary in a university setting.

"I think every time you address a situation in the college with some kind of policy, it acts as an indication to everyone that it is a concern of the institution," LaPlante said. "And if it is a concern to the university, that, I think is the deterrent."

Beth Wilson, Affirmative Action officer at the University of Oklahoma, said violations of campus speech codes does not always have to result in a punishment to act as a deterrent to hateful speech. She campus speech codes are often violated by young students who are not trying to be hateful, but just have not had experience dealing with people from different cultures.

"Generally apologies and getting the students together help resolve a lot of the situations," Wilson said in the report. "Most of the incidents are not intended to be malicious. They're just immature students who are, for the first time, getting immersed with people from different cultures. They just have to be sensitized."

Mari Matsuda, professor of law at the University of Hawaii, said in the study that universities need to implement speech codes because of the damage hateful speech can cause.

"(Victims of hateful speech) lives are changed," Matsuda said. "Their standing in the community and their free enjoyment of life is limited. To see this, and yet to fail to see the very same things happen to the victims of racist speech, is selective vision."

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State Of The Nation '94:
The Student Perspective

Mon. March 28 Room 222 J.C.P.

County Executive "Buzz" Westfall 12-1:00 p.m.
"Crime: What Can Be Done?"

U.S. Congressman James Talent 1-2:00 p.m.
"Health Care Reform-- How will it affect us?"

Tues. March 29 Room 222 J.C.P.

Former Mo. Secretary Of State Candidate John Hancock
"Cultural Relativism in the '90s" 12-1:00 p.m.

U.S. Senate Candidate Steve Carroll
"Small Businesses and America's Economic Future"
1-2:00 p.m.

Weds. March 30 Room 222 J.C.P.

Analyst Discussion Panel:
"Clinton Administration--Heading in the Right Direction?"
12-1:30 p.m.

Thurs. March 31 Room 78 J.C.P.

DEBATE: College Republicans vs. College Democrats
12-1:30 p.m. Hosted By Special Guest Moderator
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For Pete's Sake



Blues Continue To Roll Dice

by Pete Dicitrino
associate sports editor

The St. Louis Blues organization can never be criticized as a group never willing to take chances. However, some fans are beginning to wonder if they take too many chances.

Petr Nedved was signed in the Blues' latest dip into not-so-free agency. Then they immediately lost playmaking center Craig Janney as compensation. Blues fans must be shaking their heads.

The Blues have been searching for a No. 2 center for years. They make an effort to get one, but then lose one in return.

It seems to me, they are right back where they began.

First, let's go back over everything leading up to losing Janney.

Nedved, property of the Vancouver Canucks, held out at the start of the season because he wasn't receiving a fair contract offer from the Canucks. The Canucks tried all season to trade Nedved to another team but their asking price in return was too high.

Nedved, a native of Czechoslovakia, is now a citizen of Canada and played on their Silver medal team in the winter Olympics.

Many teams followed Nedved's progress in the games and were very interested in signing him to a contract after the Olympics. However, when you sign a free agent in the National Hockey League, you usually have to give up a prime-time player in return. No team was willing to take the risk, except the Blues of course.

They signed Nedved to a contract and then had four days to work out a trade with Vancouver. If no trade was completed, the teams would have to let an arbitrator decide for them.

The later is what ended up happening. Both teams made proposals on what they thought was fair compensation for Nedved.

This process is a no lose situation for the Canucks. They can ask for the moon and still come out with a good player.

At the top of the Canucks' wish list was Brendan Shanahan arguably the Blues' best player, but the Blues offered Janney.

The reason the Blues offered their best center was because they were so scared of losing Shanahan. A risk the Blues probably never should have taken.

The last time they took the risk of signing a free agent, they lost their best defenseman Scott Stevens. If they would have lost Shanahan this time, all of St. Louis would have been in a uproar. Blues management would of had to put in their resignations and leave town in a hurry.

In the end, the judge took the Blues package of Janney and a second round pick as compensation for Nedved and the Blues were able to keep Shanahan.

Nedved might turn out to be a great player for the Blues, but at this point in his career he doesn't even come close to Janney. Janney is one of the best playmakers in hockey and his assists will be sorely missed.

For the Blues sake, I hope Nedved works out and has a successful and long career with the Blues. If not, the St. Louis fans will again ask themselves why.

Rivermen Bask In Florida Sun, Return Home For Wake-up Call

by Cory Schroeder
sports editor

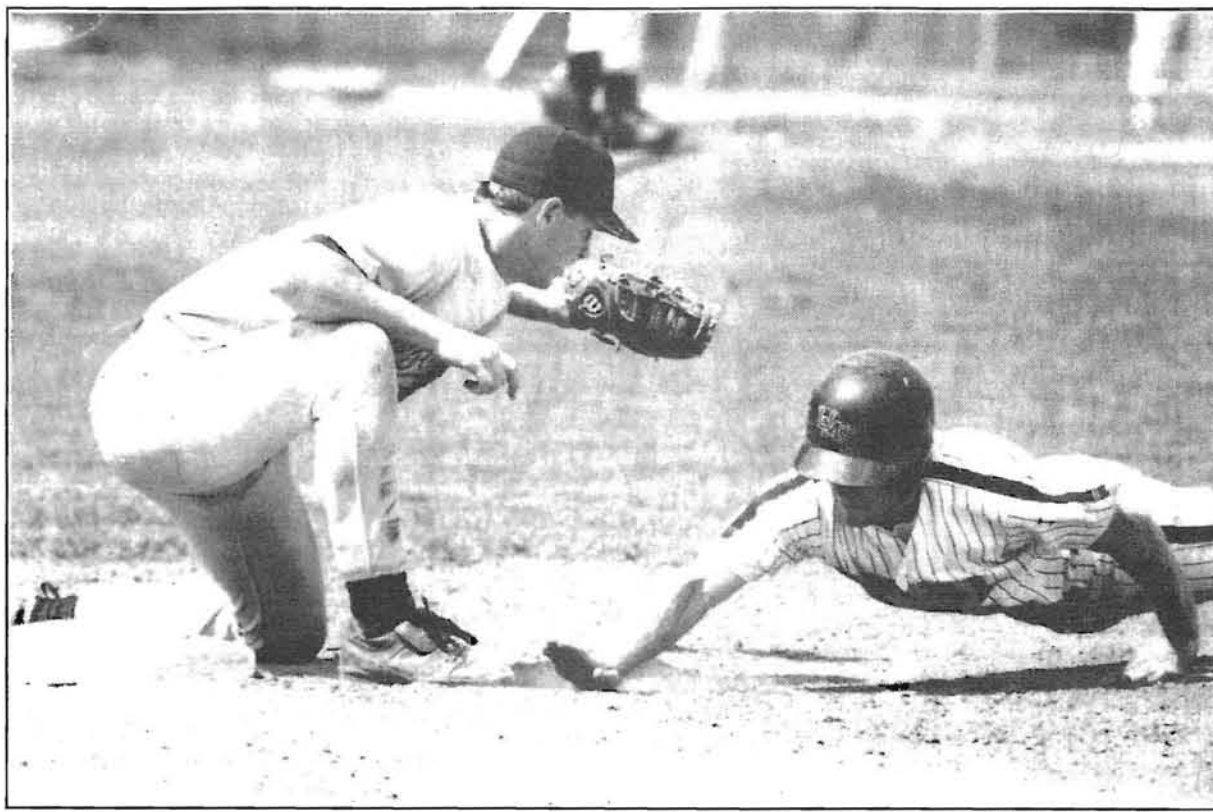
With a blazing Florida sun overhead, the UM-St. Louis baseball squad got off to a hot start, winning seven of their first eight games.

As expected, first baseman slugger Jeff Peer is at the top of Rivermen statistics with a staggering .571 batting average. Last season, his first after transferring from Mineral Area Community College, Peer batted a respectable .362 while knocking in 32 runs. This season, Peer has hit the team's only home runs (2) and leads the Rivermen with 16 RBIs.

"Peer is what you would call dangerous," Rivermen head coach Jim Brady said. "He's providing us with some much needed power."

Gone from last year's team is hot-hitting third baseman Todd Kunz, who led the club with a .364 batting average. As in the past, Brady has pulled another rabbit out of the hat in Bart Leuthauser, a big gunner with a steady glove from Three Rivers Community College. Leuthauser has been consistent game to game, batting .441 while scoring 13 runs in the leadoff slot.

"I expected him to produce right away and he (Leuthauser) has," Brady said. "He's been our catalyst and has provided some RBI chances for guys like Peer and Eye."



SAFE!!! A Rivermen player slides headfirst in action last Spring against Emporia State University. The Rivermen hope to slide safely through the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) season and return to the College World Series.

Unfortunately, Jeff Eye, a senior in his fourth year with the program, has been unable to convert on many of those chances. Eye is struggling with a .222 batting average and a mere five

RBIs despite batting in the cleanup spot in the majority of games played.

"He's not seeing the ball real well right now," Brady said. "But he's always battled through slumps and I ex-

pect him to bounce back."

After returning from Florida, the Rivermen received a little weather shock as well as a shock from fellow system college, UM-Columbia. The

Division I Tigers dispelled the Rivermen's sunshine fantasy, bringing them back to earth with a 12-5 drubbing. The Tigers have been no slouches this year in the Big Eight conference, compiling an 8-2 record, putting them ahead of the favored Kansas Jayhawks.

Following the Missouri defeat, the Rivermen got more of the same from SIU-Edwardsville March 16. The Cougars beat the Rivermen 10-6.

"Right now our guys are tired," Brady said. "We just came from that long trip in Florida only to have to turn around and play Missouri and SIU-Edwardsville. We need a rest, but we can't take it."

The Rivermen will have opened their Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) conference play with doubleheaders at Pittsburg State March 19 and 20.

Resident of the Heartbreak Hotel: Senior hurler Chris Dumm has been the victim of some bad breaks. He held St. Ambrose to two runs but the Rivermen managed to only score one. Dumm also drew the short straw and was forced to start against the explosive Missouri Tigers. The net result two losses and a still respectable ERA of 3.75.

"He's pitched well, but he's been the victim of some unfortunate circumstances," Brady said.

The Current file photo

Hahn, Team Solid In Win Over Benedictine

Rob Goedecker
of The Current staff

Preparing for the MIAA conference, the UM-St. Louis men's tennis team helped build up their confidence by easily handling Benedictine, a Division III school from Chicago, winning seven of nine matches March 16.

For Benedictine, the match was a good experience for the players before they begin their conference play.

"When you play a team like this, you've got to do the best you can, but we can't lose to any Division III opponents like this," said Benedictine coach Keith Bunkenburg. "I was a little worried, this being our first match, I didn't know how we would handle it, but I think we're doing pretty well."

Even though Benedictine is a Division III school, UM-St. Louis didn't take them lightly.

"All competition is good for your game," said UM-St. Louis coach Carl Walker. "Sometimes it's not quite as strong as in the conference, but every players' skills are different and it makes you have to really focus in on your game regardless of your abilities."

After the victory, the players felt ready to start conference play. "I've been hitting great all spring," Riverman Matt Fagala said. "I'll be ready to go."

"I'm ready for the conference," said

No. 1 player Pat Hahn. "I don't think I played as near as well as I could play today, but this was our first match outdoors."

With his father on hand to encourage him, Hahn beat Benedictine's No. 1 player, Syed Rizvi.

Hahn struggled in the first set, losing 4-6, but came back to win the last two 6-3 and 6-4.

"It took me a set to figure out a game plan," Hahn said.

"I've seen Pat play better than he's played today, but we have been indoors for all of our practice sessions over the last month and you have to get acclimated to the outdoor conditions," said coach Walker.

Hahn has improved his game and is getting some recognition from his teammates. "He's a lot better than last year. He's hitting the ball more solid," Fagala said.

Hahn was glad to see his father attend the match. "He's a real big support," Hahn said. "He goes to all of my matches, unless I tell him not to go, but he usually makes it to every match that I want him to go to."

Hahn didn't play tennis until his freshman year at Fort Zumwalt South High School. He spent most of his time (11 years) playing soccer.

"He needed something to do in the spring," said Jim Hahn. "He actually

tried to make the golf team, but once he saw that he wasn't going to make it, he switched over to tennis at the last minute."

In his freshman year, Hahn struggled, but worked hard to improve his game by gaining experience in various local tournaments. By his senior year he became one of the top players on the team and helped lead them to a district title and on to the state playoffs.

Now, Hahn is UM-St. Louis' No. 1 player and is hoping to lead them to a winning conference season. "We've got a lot of work to do, but if we all play our best, we'll do fine."

Men's Seedings

- 1 Pat Hahn
- 2 Rich Durbin
- 3 Scott Garavaglia
- 4 Matt Fagala
- 5 Jeff Grass
- 6 Ryan Young



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UMSL Sports Notebook

compiled by Cory Schroeder

Softball Team Making Some Headway

The UM-St. Louis softball team has been less than spectacular in the early season but appear to be on the right track.

The Riverwomen are 5-7 after dropping a doubleheader with Lindenwood (March 15).

With only 12 games played, the big surprise has been the offensive prowess of newcomer D.J. Martin. Martin is playing her first season of UM-St. Louis softball. She is also a guard for the women's basketball team.

Martin has driven in four runs while hitting a whopping .370.

On the mound, both starters, Jill Stockdale and Colleen Duffin, have ERAs under 2.00 but have been the victims of some close games.

Players To Watch

Softball - Colleen Duffin

Duffin has struggled at the plate, only batting a measly .200 over 10 games.

Look for her to get hot quick. She has too many good habits at the plate to be a sub-par hitter.

Baseball - Tim Stratman

Stratman, the preseason All-American, has only started one game.

Head coach Jim Brady appears to be saving his fire for MIAA play.



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